

Jan 24. Fletcher
Jan 15. 1834.

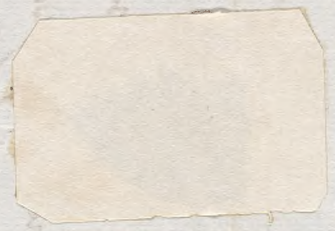
Boston.
Mass.

Rev. A. A. Phelps.

Jan 17.

Paid 10

To Anthonys W



Such a contest is enough to destroy the peace of a minister,
and nullify the influence of the Gospel. The Village or thriving
Manufacturing Establishment, the Small. In case of their
seceding, which they threaten, without imple there be a
division of the meeting, I shall be left minister of the little
congregation - a people wholly unable to support the Gospel
among them. Or should they continue united I am
bound to a measure laborious unreasonable and oppressive.
It is expected that my next payment, 14 months, will
produce a crisis, and altho. the people of both extremes
have even shown themselves remarkably united in me,
yet I think it will then appear to be my duty to
withdraw. The people are dead to my influence.
I have enjoyed the ministry among them, tho. amid the
infirmities, self denial and short comings. For the pardon
of these, I cast myself a miserable sinner, upon a Saviour
glorious and righteous. The longer I live the more I see
of the sing of my heart, - the more I feel the need of
constant watchfulness, humbling and prayer. And often
my dear Brother, do live commend these virtues to our
people, but forget them ourselves. I long for more holiness
of heart and absolute consecration to my blessed Master
and his cause. May grace and mercy from the Lord be
with you and your interesting charge, and you have the final
word of winning many souls to Christ. I desire and affectionate
remembrance to Mrs. Phelps. Please reply soon.

Yours in Gospel Bonds, Samuel H. Fletcher.

Should you have convenient opportunity to mention my
case to Dr. Wisner, and think it of sufficient importance, as
I have some acquaintance with him, he might direct me some
further testimony.

The principal reason of my meditating a dismission is
that the people are in hourly danger of dividing, or if
remaining united, require of me an amount of labour for
which my strength is inadequate, especially in the Summer
Season. The Parish is an Imperium in Imperio - a house
divided against itself, and I fear, must come to an open
rupture. My labours here have already been hard in the ex-
treme, being uniformly obliged to deliver a third discourse
in the So. Village, in the most hot season. My Dr.
Crand never dies, and in the language of Dr. Wisner,
to whom I disclosed my trouble last Summer, no young
man ought to do, or can do for a length of time, without
sinking. The Village people have now finished a
superb and costly chapel with mahogany pulpit, and
every convenience to seat 3 or 4 hundred people; and are
 strenuously claiming preaching one half the time. The
hill people as strenuously claim their ancient right and
privilege of more than half century standing, and look
upon every attempt to remove the meeting as an encroach-
ment upon their undoubted right. So stands the
controversy. I have tried to do my duty, but let
it turn as it may, I can hardly endure it longer.

No. Northbridge, 15 Jan. 1834.

Rev. Mr. Phelps—

Dear Brother,

I am fully aware that your hands must be fully occupied with your own parochial and other duties, and yet permit me to trouble you a little, with my affairs.

I have been spending two days in fasting and prayer, with reference to the duty of asking a dismission from my people. All the reason for this I could not mention. Not a soul among my people suspects this, nor have I even ventured to suggest it seriously to the dear Brethren of the Association, lest it should come back to my people. Yet I need fraternal sympathy and aid. My long and expiring heart is, and I have nearly made up my mind, then to ask a dismission, tho' the thought is in many respects extremely painful. I give you my present thought. Things may take a favorable turn ere that time. Should I be called to this, a few hints of counsel as to the method of proceeding, and some interest in your part with respect to a future location, would place me under great obligations to you. Do you know of any vacant field at this time; or should I come to Boston, is there any prospect of a short supply in any vacant parish there? Please to mention also, in your reply, some suitable person for this part of labor, should you know of any such.